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this country, seems now to depend on the restoration of its freedom, as it is proved by undeniable documents, that if it be allowed to remain in its present limited form, it will languish, decay, and pass into the hands of other States.

10. That the danger supposed to arise from excess of speculation, at the commencement of an open commerce with India, is altogether imaginary; because the enterprise of individuals is uniformly circumscribed by their means and success; because any evil of this nature is temporary, and checks itself; and because the very worst that can occur, in the event of the abandonment of the trade by the public, would be, that matters again would return to their present state.

11. That at a time when the anti-commercial system of France has been successfully exerted to exclude us from the continental markets; when the prosecution of an expensive war renders it necessary to adopt every means for augmenting the revenue, and when our existence, as a nation, depends in a great degree on the maintenance of our naval superiority, it has become not only highly expedient, but indispensably requisite, to open up every legitimate channel of trade, for the preservation of our commercial, maritime, and financial interests.

12. That this Chamber, fully satisfied that the injury arising from every monopoly, must be proportionate to the extent of the trade thus confined; convinced of the importance, and even the necessity of a free intercourse with the rich, populous, and extensive countries in the East, as well those formerly acquired by the Company, as those lately subdued by his Majesty's arms; and dismissing the idea of all interference with the territorial rights and political privileges of the Company.

Resolved, That petitions to both houses of Parliament, founded on the basis of these Resolutions, be immediately prepared and presented before the approaching discussion; that the Report, accompanied by these Resolutions, be printed, communicated to Members of both Houses, and transmitted to every commercial and manufacturing town of importance, in the United Kingdom, that the co-operation of the nation at large be earnestly requested in petitioning Parliament to refuse the renewal of the East India Company's monopoly; and that Messrs. Kirkman Finlay, Chairman; James Dennistoun, Deputy Chairman, James Hopkins, Alexander

Campbell, David Connell, James Ewing, A. D. Campbell, Francis Garden, James Buchanan, James Buchanan, jun., James Robertson, and Dugald Bannatyne, be appointed a Committee, with full powers to carry the above Resolutions into effect,

K. FINLAY.

EAST INDIA CHARTER.

Guildhall, Bristol, February 19, 1812.

At a most numerous and respectable general meeting of the Merchants, Traders, and other Inhabitants of this City, convened by the Right Worshipful the Mayor, pursuant to a written request,—to consider what measures may be proper to be taken by this City, upon the approaching expiration of the East India Company's charter.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor in the chair.

The following resolutions were unanimously agreed to:—

First.—That it is the opinion of this meeting, that it would greatly contribute to the prosperity of the trade and commerce of this city, provided it could be admitted to a participation in the trade to the eastward of the Cape of Good Hope, and the westward of Cape Horn, from which the act 33d of the King, chap. 52d, now excludes the out ports in favour of the port of London.

Second.—That a committee of gentlemen be appointed by this meeting, for the purpose of collecting information, inspecting documents, &c. relative to the said trade, and to report to a future meeting such measures, as, in their opinion, it may be proper and necessary for the inhabitants of this city to adopt, on the approaching expiration of the East India Company's Charter, to open that trade to the country at large, in such manner as may be consistent with justice, the public good, and the peace and safety of our East Indian settlements.

Third.—That the following gentlemen be named as the committee, that is to say—the Right Worshipful John Hilhouse Wilcox, esq. Mayor; the Master and Wardens for the time being of the Society of Merchant venturers; Mr. Alderman Daniel—Mr. Philip Protheroe—Mr. John Loudon Mc Adam—Mr. John Masters—Mr. George Dyer—Mr. John Lewis Apriol—Mr. Philip George—Mr. Joseph Hilliar—Mr. James Fowler—Mr. Adrien Moens—Mr. Charles Payne—Mr. James Evan Baillie—Mr. William Fripp—Mr. Michael Castle—Mr. William Peter Lunnell—Mr. James Martin Hilhouse—and Mr. John Cave—with power to add to their

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